

REMARKS

The present application is directed to an apparatus and method for processing a fluid sample. Claims 1-24 are currently pending. Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 28-24 are withdrawn as directed to a non-elected invention, and Claims 2-17 are amended. No new matter has been added.

Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action dated March 24, 2008, the Examiner required restriction of the application to one of the following groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 1-17, directed to an apparatus for processing a fluid sample.

Group II: Claims 18-23, directed to a method of processing a fluid sample.

Group III: Claim 24, directed to a lid for closure of a vessel.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, Claims 1-17, directed to an apparatus for processing a fluid sample, for prosecution on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to rejoin the nonelected claims in the event that the claims of Group I are found allowable.

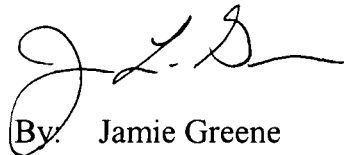
CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed March 24, 2008.

Applicants assert that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the application be passed to issuance. If the Examiner believes that any informalities remain in the case that may be corrected by Examiner's amendment, or that there are any other issues which can be resolved by a telephone interview, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at (404) 815-6500 is respectfully solicited.

No additional fees are believed due; however the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



By: Jamie Greene
Reg. No. 32,467

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
1100 Peachtree Street, Suite 2800
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4530
Telephone: (404) 815-6500
Facsimile: (404) 815-6555
Our Docket: 41577-326422 (P1370/1348)